

## How to Greet a Dog\*

1. Keep your breathing easy and relaxed.
2. Don't approach the dog straight on. Approach on a curve like the letter "C." Once you are close to her, turn to your side rather than face the dog head on.
3. When you stop to greet people on a walk or at the front door, turn to your side. This makes the other person less threatening.
4. Instead of approaching the dog, let her come to you. Avoid sudden movements.
5. When greeting a dog, keep your hand down by your side.
6. Once you determine that the dog isn't feeling threatened, approach to pet him with your hand *under the chin where he can see where your hand is going*, not over his body. Then pet him gently on the chest or the side of the face, away from the ears and eyes. *Don't ever reach over the dog's body to pet him on the top of the head or back until you know him very well and know that he likes it.*
7. Avoid eye contact.
8. Speak in a calm friendly voice with a lower register, but not one that is too low or too harsh.
9. Sometimes a silent yawn will help calm a dog and communicate that you aren't a threat.

\*Adapted from *The Dog Whisperer*, Paul Owens.